

# SENATE FIGHT WARMER; THREAT BY CRAM CHILD SLAYER RUSHED TO SCENE OF CRIME

WEATHER—Rain to-night and Sunday.

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## The



## World.



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## MOTHER WHO KILLED BOY IN COLLAPSE ON TRAIN RUSHING HER TO PRISON

Edith Melber, Hysterical After Confessing She  
Murdered Only Child With Acid, Is  
Taken From Rochester Hospital  
and Sent to Albany.

(Special From a Staff Correspondent of The Evening World.)  
ALBANY, Jan. 14.—Mrs. Edith Melber, the slayer of her only child, is on her way to Albany. Although ill and hysterical following her confession, she was taken from a hospital in Rochester and put on the 11.35 train for this city. After her confession last night she broke down completely and it was feared she would be unable to make the trip to-day.

The feeling against the woman here is very strong. The horror of the discovery of the body of five-year-old George Melber, frozen stiff in the swamp on the outskirts of the city with acid marks on the chubby face, is still strong in the community. The authorities may find it necessary to smuggle her into prison.

The detailed confession of Mrs. Melber, taken in connection with the fact that she looked on the child as an obstacle to her desire to lead a life of pleasure, adds to the horror of the crime. She says she did not force the boy to drink the carbolic acid that killed him. He complained of thirst and, trusting her when she told him the poison bottle contained water, he swallowed the draught.

Wanted to Wed Again.  
The police are convinced that the motive for the crime was a desire to be rid of her child so she could marry again. They are trying to discover whether any suitor of the woman had any knowledge of her act. It was learned to-day that one man who was an intimate friend of Mrs. Melber left Schenectady about the same time she did and that his destination was San Francisco. The police of Kansas City have been asked to intercept this man and hold him pending the result of the inquiry now being conducted.

The police investigation discloses the fact that removal of the boy from the home of his relatives in Schenectady prior to the murder was the culmination of a long drawn out family quarrel.

It is declared that Mrs. Melber was about to marry a plumber, Howard Kirk, who lives at No. 803 Lincoln avenue, Schenectady.

She told Kirk that the boy was the son of her brother and that she had no children.

Charles F. Smith, the woman's brother, to-day declared her desire to marry again was the cause of the crime.

"You have heard the old song, 'Always in the Way,' he remarked. 'Well, that seems to me to be the only reason for the crime. She wanted the boy out of the way and she tried to me and my family.' Smith would give no explanation of the last statement.

Mrs. J. F. Bartlett of Greenwood Boulevard, Schenectady, by whom the accused woman was employed, told the police that Mrs. Melber had brought the boy to the house on two occasions, but had told her he was the son of her brother.

Showing Dislike of Child.  
According to Mrs. Bartlett, Mrs. Melber left the house last Friday afternoon saying she was going to take the boy to Albany, where she was to arrange for his adoption by another brother.

The woman returned to the Bartlett residence the following night and Kirk called about 9 o'clock and remained until 10. Some time later Mr. Bartlett was locking the doors and found Mrs. Melber seated in one of the front windows. He asked her why she was there and she replied that she was waiting for Kirk to return, as he had gone out to buy her some medicine. Kirk returned some time after 11 o'clock and remained until about midnight.

Mrs. Bartlett declares that the woman always showed a strong dislike for the child and that on two occasions, when she brought him to the house, she had whipped the boy in an unmerciful manner. In addition to her dislike for the child, he interfered with the life she craved, the police say. Mrs. Melber had many admirers.

On the morning after Kirk was alleged to have been out after the medicine the telephone bell rang, and

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## WOMEN STABBED IN FIERCE FIGHT TO CAPTURE THIEF

Mrs. Erwin and Her Daughter  
Wounded in Desperate  
Struggle.

THE ASSAILANT ESCAPES.

Makes Off With Booty From  
Brooklyn House After Battle  
in Hallway.

A boarding house thief stabbed Mrs. Mary Erwin, sixty-five years old, and Dorothy, her daughter, repeatedly in the arms, this afternoon in escaping from Mrs. Erwin's house at No. 162 Bergen street, Brooklyn.

He got away without his hat and overcoat and covered with marks of his encounter with the women.

The man appeared at the house early to-day, took a room under the name of Desmille and paid for it for a week. He went out at noon. A little later Miss Erwin found that her diamond ring, a gold watch and \$60 in money was missing from her bureau. There had been no one in the house except the new lodger.

The man came back at 2 o'clock and potted around his room, closely watched by the two women until half past four, when he started out.

Dorothy Erwin met him in the hall in front of the door and charged him with taking her jewelry and money. He growled a denial and tried to push by her. Her mother went to her aid and effectively kept him from reaching the door.

The robber broke away from them and started down the basement stairs on the run. Miss Erwin caught him. She tripped and the two fell down the stairs, and Mrs. Erwin fell on top of them. Both women were screaming for help at the top of their lungs. The thief whipped out a knife and began stabbing them in the arms, meanwhile biting at their faces. He at last broke their hold and ran out into the street.

Dr. Hurwitz of the Long Island College Hospital, was called to attend the women. He found that the wounds in their arms were not serious, but that there was danger of blood poisoning in the torn wounds left by the man's teeth on their cheeks.

Mrs. Erwin and her daughter described the thief as about twenty-two years old, clean shaven and slender. He left behind a gray overcoat and a brown derby hat. The police have sent out a general alarm for him.

## MAY CALL OUT TROOPS FOR STATE LEGISLATURE.

West Virginia Democrats and Republicans in a Bitter Dead-lock War.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Jan. 14.—With threats of martial law being declared and the calling out of the state militia, trouble is threatening serious results in West Virginia's state legislature in session here. With the Republicans and Democrats deadlocked in the Senate fight for organization, Republicans refused to go into joint session after holding a caucus and they spent the greater part of last night locked behind doors of the assembly room of the capitol building.

Democrats to-day threatened to have all the Republicans arrested and forced from the Senate. An effort is being made to unseat Senator J. G. Hearne of Wheeling, Ohio county, and give the Democrats a majority. Gov. Glascock said he would protect the Republicans and call out the militia if arrests were not made.

## \$253,000,000 POSTAL BILL READY FOR CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—The Post-Office Appropriation bill carrying \$253,000,000 was completed by the House Committee on Post-Offices to-day and may be reported to the House Monday. The amount carried by the bill is an increase of \$10,000,000 over the last appropriation, and \$10,000,000 of it is to meet deficiencies. There is nothing in the bill as to second class mail reform or parcel post.

## WATCH THE DOME!

The moment City Chamberlain Charles H. Hyde returns to duty at his office The Evening World will notify the taxpayers of New York by raising the municipal flag on the dome of the Pulitzer Building.

## WATCH THE DOME!

## CAZZAZZAGRAMS FROM HYDE ON STRANDED HOUSEBOAT

"Discovered but Not Found," City Chamberlain Doesn't Tell Why He's Stopping a While on the Stop-a-While or for How Long a While.

(Special Hydrographic to The Evening World.)  
HOTEL ORMOND, Florida, Jan. 14.—Your correspondent, after several unsuccessful attempts to get on board Charles Hiram Hyde's houseboat Stop-a-While while it was stopping a while on a mudbank in the St. Johns River, near here, succeeded in establishing cazzazzagrammic communication with the fugacious City Chamberlain to-day. Cazzazzagrammic communication having been established, the hidden Mr. Hyde was helpless.

The method of establishing communication was simple. Your correspondent sent himself in a shady spot on the piazza of the hotel and placed his pocket cazzazzagram on the table between the siphon and the glass. The bottle and your correspondent surrounded the cazzazzagram on the other two sides. Then your correspondent concentrated his thoughts upon Mayor Gaynor.

"Discovered, but Not Found."  
In a few minutes the cazzazzagram began to whirl and groan and spit fire. The following cazzazzagram was soon deciphered:

"Although discovered, I am not found. What do you want?"

It was Hyde! He was cazzazzagramming his thoughts through intervening miles of ether, writhing impotently in the grasp of silence. Summoning a waiter and handing him a \$10 bill—for a highball and \$6 for himself—your correspondent proceeded to interview the \$100-a-month city of New York official.

Q. Why did you leave our fair city, Mr. Hyde?

A. It was my custom last year to take a houseboat trip to Florida about the lat of December, stopping on the way down to put a few ducks.

Q. When do you intend to return?

A. It is too early to state what my custom is this year.

Q. Did the fact that the Legislative Grant Investigation Committee desired to question you about the race-track bills have anything to do with your hike Southward?

A. Of course it did.

Q. Mr. Hyde, it is reported that you handled a large sum of money raised by the race-track interests. Did you or did you not?

A. Certainly.

Q. Could He Trust Strangers?

Q. Why did you deposit \$100,000 of the city's money in the Carnegie Trust Company without exacting a protective bond?

A. You wouldn't have me entrust the precious funds of the city to strangers, would you?

Q. Are you aware that the Carnegie Trust Company has failed?

A. I have been told that somebody tried to get in and found the door locked, or something like that.

Q. What do you think about Joseph G. Robin, reputed to have been your friend, who has been indicted in New York since your departure for stealing money from a savings bank?

A. I think the Tombs is no place to be in for comfort.

Q. What do you know about the Astor Mortgage Company?

A. Why, I used to pass the Astor House every day on my way between Wall Street and the City Chamberlain's office.

Q. Would you prefer to loan your own money or the city's money on short term mortgages in amounts up to the assessed value of the property covered by the mortgages?

## WATCH THE DOME! SAYS PRENDERGAST

Comptroller Prendergast, while addressing a mass meeting last night in Commonwealth Hall, No. 2005 Amsterdam avenue, was asked:

"When will Hyde return?"

"Watch the dome," replied the Comptroller.

## 1000 ARMED THUGS MOB A COURT AT BLACK HAND TRIAL

Prisoner Attacks Detective  
Witness on Stand and  
Threatens Vengeance.

POLICE CLEAR BUILDING

Case of Brooklyn Girl's Abductors Adjourned Because of Demonstration.

When Felix Esposito, of No. 5120 Dean Street, and Vincenzo Nicosa, of No. 2205 Atlantic avenue, Brooklyn, were arraigned before Magistrate Dodd in the New Jersey Avenue Court to-day there were a thousand ugly looking men of their own race crowding the sidewalk outside the court room. They were friends of Esposito and Nicosa.

They could not get in because Magistrate Dodd, warned by his last experience in attempting to try the same men, had sent for the reserves of the Miller avenue police station and had prevented any of the lowering, growling crew from entering the court. Even this precaution did not prevent an attack on Detective Santono in court, of such violence that the case was adjourned.

At the last hearing the crowd got into the court room. The witnesses in the case were trembling in terror and even the detectives of the Italian Bureau were nervous. Magistrate Dodd sent for the reserves and had the room cleared. Several knives and a revolver were found on the court-room floor when the last of the crew had been pushed out to the street.

Made Prisoner in Hut.

The men are charged with stealing Antonetta Scambatta, eighteen years old, from her home, No. 38 Snodaker street, in August, and keeping her prisoner for several days in a hut in Queens. She was found by a motorman, wandering, and out of her senses. When she recovered she said that the two men, who were about twenty years old, had taken her from the hut, tied her to a tree and, after lashing her with switches, had left her. She worked loose and found the road, half dead.

Detectives hunted all the black and white residents of the five boroughs until Dec. 31, when they found the men in Brooklyn.

Detective Santono took the stand to-day and began giving evidence. Vincenzo Nicosa leaped from the prisoner's chair at the detective's throat. He was tripped and pushed back to his place.

Vengeance Threat in Court.

With tightly clenched fists he leaped forward, and, baring his teeth like a cornered wolf, screamed in Italian at the detective:

"You lie! You lie! And I will get you. And if I do not get you WE will!"

His struggles to reach the detective became so frenzied that the uproar in court was echoed by the surly crowd outside. Magistrate Dodd hastily adjourned the case until Monday, ordered the men hurried back to prison and had the street cleared.

The Magistrate said he thought it probable that the Brooklyn Magistrates would unite in asking the Commissioner of Police to take drastic action to restrain the terrorism which the Black Hand thugs have tried to surround the courts in Brooklyn within the past few weeks by appearing in hundreds to threaten everybody who has to do with a case against one of their comrades.

## BIG HOTEL FOR NEWPORT.

(Special to The Evening World.)  
NEWPORT, Jan. 14.—Those who have long known of the going down of Newport as the "Queen of Summer Resorts"—a title she has held undisturbed for decades—may be interested to learn of an important meeting held this afternoon at the Newport Trust Company to decide means for the erection of a big hotel as an attraction for visitors.

The prominent men of the city were present. Reference was made to former attempts to build a hotel in Newport, but it was determined that as far as lay in the power of those present and those who would undoubtedly be associated with them the new enterprise should be pushed to success and if possible the waiting prestige of Newport revived.

Jeffries declined to see reporters to-day.

Sunday World Wants Work  
Monday Morning Wonders.

## SEVEN MEN IN RACE FOR SENATE, SAYS DIX; EACH HAS A CHANCE

Governor Comes Here, Leaves the  
Warring Factions in Albany, but  
Again Refuses to Express a  
Personal Preference.

## CRAM BITTERLY SAYS MURPHY SIDETRACKED HIM.

Dix in an Interview Declares the Tammany  
Leader Has Not Mentioned the Name  
of Sheehan or Any Other Candidate  
During Their Talks.

"The Senatorial contest is still an open one," declared Gov. Dix on his arrival here to-day from Albany. "I do not think I should interfere for or against any candidate."

The Governor was accompanied from Albany by Thomas Mott Osborne, who has charge of the Edward M. Shepard campaign.

"Have you anything to say on the Senatorial situation?" was the first question put to the Governor by the newspaper men awaiting him.

The Governor smiled and answered in the negative.

"Have you an appointment with Mayor Gaynor to discuss the situation?"

"No."

"Will you meet him to-day?"

"I don't think so."

"Have you any other appointments to-day?"

"Yes, I am going now to take lunch with Dr. Stricker of Hamilton College; after that I will meet two delegations of G. A. R. men, and I expect to take dinner at the Lotus Club to-night."

Can't Even Make a Guess.

"Will you make a prediction on the Senatorial situation?"

"There are so many candidates in the field that I cannot make even a guess as to which will win."

"Is your attitude on this question unchanged?"

"Absolutely."

"Then you will not interfere as several newspapers have reported that you would?"

The Governor hesitated for a moment. Carefully choosing his words, he replied slowly:

"I don't think I will interfere one way or the other—I don't think I should. The Senatorial contest is still an open field. There are seven candidates, and every one of them is going to have a fair chance so far as I am concerned."

It is reported that a delegation from Brooklyn will see you this afternoon to try to induce you to interfere in Mr. Shepard's behalf. Is that so, Governor?"

"I haven't heard of it."

"Will you see them?"

Ready to See Any One.

"I will see anybody who advocates any candidate."

"After you see the Brooklyn people are you likely to make any statement?"

"I don't think so. I'm not going to say anything in favor of or against any candidate."

Is there any possibility, Governor, of your attitude upon this subject being changed in the future?"

The Governor hesitated again.

"I don't think there is," he answered.

"I don't think I should interfere."

Has Charles F. Murphy, leader of Tammany Hall, discussed the situation with you?"

"I am absolutely frank with you in this matter," was the reply. "Mr. Murphy has not suggested the name of any candidate to me."

Expressed No Preference.

"Did Mr. Murphy express a preference for Mr. Sheehan or anybody else?"

Mr. Murphy had not expressed such a preference, the Governor said, nor had he mentioned the name of any organization candidate. The candidates for the Senatorship are understood to be Edward M. Shepard, William F. Sheehan, D-Cady Herriek, Seymour Van

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